

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend claim 83 as provided in the following claims listing.

### Claims Listing:

1.-82. (canceled).

83. (Currently amended) A peptide conjugate comprising X and Z, wherein X is a pharmacologically active peptide sequence, Z is a stabilizing peptide consisting of 4 to 15 amino acid residues covalently bound by its N terminus to the C terminus end of X or bound by its C terminus to the N terminus end of X, wherein Z is a sequence selected from:

(i) Lys<sub>4-10</sub>,

(ii) (Lys-Xaa)<sub>m</sub>,

(iii) (Xaa-Lys)<sub>m</sub>,

(iv) Lys<sub>p</sub>-Xaa<sub>q</sub>,

(v) Xaa<sub>p</sub>-Lys<sub>q</sub>,

(vi) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys,

(vii) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>,

(viii) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys,

(ix) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>,

(x) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys,

(xi) Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>,

- (xii) Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,
- (xiii) Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,
- (xiv) Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,
- (xv) Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,
- (xvi) Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,
- (xvii) Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>1</sup>-Lys-Xaa<sup>2</sup>-Xaa<sup>1</sup>,

wherein

each of Xaa, Xaa<sup>1</sup>, and Xaa<sup>2</sup> is, independently, selected from the group consisting of Ser,

Thr, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Arg, His, and Met;

each of p and q is, independently, an integer from 1 to 14, with the proviso that p+q is from 4 to 15;

m is an integer in the range from 2 to 7;

and wherein,

X is selected from the group consisting of AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 14), insulin-like growth factor I (57-70) (Ala-Leu-Leu-Glu-Thr-Tyr-Cys-Ala-Thr-Pro-Ala-Lys-Ser-Glu) (SEQ ID NO: 15), insulin-like growth factor I (30-41) (Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 16), insulin-like growth factor I (24-41) (Tyr-Phe-Asn-Lys-Pro-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ala-Pro-Gln-Thr) (SEQ ID NO: 17), insulin-like growth factor II (33-40) (Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 18), insulin-like growth factor

II (33-40) (Tyr-Ser-Arg-Val-Ser-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 19), insulin-like growth factor II (69-84) (Asp-Val-Ser-Thr-Pro-Pro-Thr-Val-Leu-Pro-Asp-Asn-Phe-Pro-Arg-Tyr) (SEQ ID NO: 20), growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 21), beta-Interleukin I (163-171) (Val-Gln-Gly-Glu-Glu-Ser-Asn-Asp-Lys) (SEQ ID NO: 22), beta-Interleukin II (44-56) (Ile-Leu-Asn-Gly-Ile-Asn-Asn-Tyr-Lys-Asn-Pro-Lys-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 23), Interleukin II (60-70) (Leu-Thr-Phe-Lys-Phe-Tyr-Met-Pro-Lys-Lys-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 24), exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 25), exendin-3 (GLP-I analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO: 26), epidermal growth factor (20-31) Cys(Acm)-Met-His-Ile-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Thr-Cys(Acm) (SEQ ID NO: 27), bivalirudin (Hirulog) (D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Glu-Tyr-Leu) (SEQ ID NO: 28), hirulog-1 D-Phe-Pro-Arg-Pro-(Gly)4-Asn-Gly-Asp-Phe-Glu-Glu-Ile-Pro-Glu-Tyr-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 29), C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO: 30), “Mini ANP” (Met-Cys-His-

cyclohexylAla-Gly-Gly-Arg-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Cys-Tyr-Arg, disulfide bridge cys2-cys13) (SEQ ID NO: 31), Melanotan-II (MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH<sub>2</sub>, or Ac-N-Ile-Asp5-His6-D-Phe7-Arg8-Trp9-Lys10) (SEQ ID NO: 32), thymosin alpha 1 (TA1) (Ac-Ser-Asp-Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Thr-Ser-Ser-Glu-Ile-Thr-Lys-Asp-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys-Glu-Val-Val-Glu-Glu-Ala-Glu-Asn) (SEQ ID NO: 33), Cys-Phe-Ile-Gln-Asn-Cys-Pro-Orn-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>, Disulfide bridge: Cys1-Cys6) (SEQ ID NO: 34), octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 35), calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) Ala-Cys-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Cys-Vla-Thr-His-Arg-Leu-Ala-Gly-Leu-Leu-Ser-Arg-Ser-Gly-Gly-Val-Val-Lys-Asn-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Thr-Asn-Val-Gly-Ser-Lys-Ala-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub>; Disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 36), endomorphin-1 Tyr-Pro-Trp-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 37); endomorphin-2 Tyr-Pro-Phe-Phe-NH<sub>2</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 38), nociceptin (also known as Orphanin FQ, Phe-Gly-Gly-Phe-Thr-Gly-Ala-Arg-Lys-Ser-Ala-Arg-Lys-Leu-Ala-Asn-Gln) (SEQ ID NO: 39), angiotensinogen (1-13) (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His) (SEQ ID NO: 40), adrenomedullin (1-12) (Tyr-Arg-Gln-Ser-Met-Asn-Asn-Phe-Gln-Gly-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 41), antiarrhythmic peptide (AAP) (Gly-Pro-Hyp-Gly-Ala-Gly) (SEQ ID NO: 42), Antagonist G (Arg-DTrp-(nMe)Phe-DTrp-Leu-Met-NH<sub>2</sub>), indolicidin (Ile-Leu-Pro-Trp-Lys-Trp-Pro-Trp-Trp-Pro-Trp-Arg-Arg-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 43), osteocalcin (37-49) (Gly-Phe-Gln-Glu-Ala-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Phe-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 44), cortistatin 29 (1-13) (Glp)-Glu-Arg-Pro-Pro-Leu-Gln-Gln-Pro-Pro-His-Arg-

Asp) (SEQ ID NO: 45), cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO: 46), PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 47), PD-142893 (Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 48), fibrinogen binding inhibitor peptide (His-His-Leu-Gly-Gly-Ala-Lys-Gln-Ala-Gly-Asp-Val) (SEQ ID NO: 49), leptin (93-105) (Asn-Val-Ile-Gln-Ile-Ser-Asn-Asp-Leu-Glu-Asn-Leu-Arg) (SEQ ID NO: 50), GR 83074 (Boc-Arg-Ala-DTrp-Phe-DPro-Pro-Nle-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 51) Tyr-W-MIF-1 (Tyr-Pro-Trp-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 52), ~~parathyroid hormone related peptide (107-111) (Thr Arg Ser Ala Trp)~~ (SEQ ID NO: 53), angiotensinogen (1-14) Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu-Val-Ile-His-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 54), Leupeptin (Ac-Leu-Leu-Arg-CHO), enkephalin, Leu-enkephalin, Met-enkephalin, angiotensin I, angiotensin II, vasopressin, endothelin, vasoactive intestinal peptide, neuropeptides, endorphins, insulin, gramicidin, paracelsin, delta-sleep inducing peptide, gonadotropin-releasing hormone, human parathyroid hormone (1-34), EMP-1, Atrial natriuretic peptide, human brain natriuretic peptide, cecropin, kinetinsin, neuropeptides, elafin, guamerin, atriopeptin I, atriopeptin II, atriopeptin III, deltorphin I, deltorphin II, vasotocin, bradykinin, dynorphin, dynorphin A, dynorphin B, growth hormone release factor, growth hormone, growth hormone releasing peptide, oxytocin, calcitonin, calcitonin gene-related peptide, calcitonin gene-related peptide II, growth hormone releasing peptide, tachykinin, cholecystokinin, corticotropin releasing factor, diazepam binding inhibitor fragment, FMRF-amide, galanin, gastric releasing

polypeptide, gastric inhibitory polypeptide, gastrin, gastrin releasing peptide, glucagon, glucagon-like peptide-1, glucagon-like peptide-2, LHRH, melanin concentrating hormone, morphine modulating peptides, motilin, neurokinin A, neurokinin B, neuromedin B, neuromedin C, neuromedin K, neuromedin N, neuromedin U, neuropeptide K, neuropeptide Y, pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide, pancreatic polypeptide, peptide YY, secretin, somatostatin, substance K, thyrotropin-releasing hormone, eptifibatide, and melanostatin, and salts of said peptide conjugate.

84.-86. (canceled).

87. (Previously presented) A peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein Z is Lys<sub>4</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 55), Lys<sub>5</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 56) or Lys<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 62).

88. (Previously presented) A peptide conjugate according to claim 87, wherein Z is Lys<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 62).

89.-113. (Canceled).

114. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is gonadotropin releasing hormone.

115. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is human parathyroid hormone (1-34).

116. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is growth hormone.

117. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is

oxytocin.

118. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is glucagon.

119. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is peptide YY.

120. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is exendin-4 (GLP-1 analog) (His-Gly-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 25).

121. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is bivalirudin.

122. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is hirulog-1.

123. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is AF 12505 (Ile-Glu-Gly-Pro-Thr-Leu-Arg-Gln-Trp-Leu-Ala-Ala-Arg-Ala) (SEQ ID NO: 14).

124. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is vasopressin.

125. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is vasoactive intestinal peptide.

126. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is

vasotocin.

127. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is growth hormone (GH)-releasing peptide-6 (GHRP-6) (His-DTrp-Ala-Trp-DPhe-Lys-NH<sub>2</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 21).

128. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is exendin-3 (GLP-I analog) (His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gln-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser) (SEQ ID NO: 26).

129. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is LHRH.

130. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is kyotorphin.

131. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is C-type natriuretic peptide (1-53) (CNP) (Asp-Leu-Arg-Val-Asp-Thr-Lys-Ser-Arg-Ala-Ala-Trp-Ala-Arg-Leu-Gln-Glu-His-Pro-Asn-Ala-Arg-Lys-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Ala-Asn-Lys-Lys-Gly-Leu-Ser-Lys-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Leu-Lys-Leu-Asp-Arg-Ile-Gly-Ser-Met-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys; Disulfide bridge: Cys37-Cys53) (SEQ ID NO: 30).

132. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is cortistatin 14 Pro-Cys-Lys-Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Ser-Ser-Cys-Lys; disulfide bridge: Cys2-Cys13 (SEQ ID NO: 46).

133. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is EMP-1.

134. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is Atrial natriuretic peptide.

135. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is human brain natriuretic peptide.

136. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is gastric inhibitory polypeptide.

137. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is glucagon-like peptide-1.

138. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is glucagon-like peptide-2.

139. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide.

140. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is pancreatic polypeptide.

141. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is somatostatin.

142. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is octreotide (201-995) (DPhe-Cys-Phe-DTrp-Lys-Thr-Cys-Thr-ol; disulfide bridge: Cys2-

Cys7) (SEQ ID NO: 35).

143. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is calcitonin.

144. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is PD-145065 (Ac-D-Bhg-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 47).

145. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is PD-142893 (Ac-D-Dip-Leu-Asp-Ile-Ile-Trp) (SEQ ID NO: 48).

146. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is eptifibatide.

147. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 83, wherein X is Melanotan-II (MT-II, alpha-MSH4-10-NH<sub>2</sub>, or Ac-N<sub>1</sub>Ile<sub>4</sub>-Asp<sub>5</sub>-His<sub>6</sub>-D-Phe<sub>7</sub>-Arg<sub>8</sub>-Trp<sub>9</sub>-Lys<sub>10</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 32).

148. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to any of claims 114-147, wherein Z is (Lys)<sub>n</sub> in which n is an integer from 4 to 10.

149. (Withdrawn) The peptide conjugate according to claim 148, wherein Z is Lys<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 62).